

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
Hideyuki Toriyama et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 2626
	)	
Application No.: 09/722,475	)	Examiner: JEROME GRANT II
	)	
Filed: November 28, 2000	)	Confirmation No.: 5387
	)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 07 2006  
**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

THIRD INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Also enclosed is a copy of a Notice of Reasons of Refusal issued in a corresponding Japanese application, and a translation thereof.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.


The information is submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Continued examination is requested and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) accompanies the present submission.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date March 7, 2006

By:   
William C. Rowland  
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### THIRD INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/722,475
Filing Date	November 28, 2000
First Named Inventor	Hideyuki Toriyama et al.
Examiner Name	JEROME GRANT II
Attorney Docket Number	1018775-000808

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS****FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	STATUS						
					Translation	Partial Translation	Eng. Lang. Summary	Search Report	IPER	Abstract	Cited in Spec
	62-281561		Japan	12-07-1987				X		X	
	11-179939		Japan	07-06-1999				X		X	
	11-165434		Japan	06-22-1999				X		X	
	7-135447		Japan	05-23-1995				X		X	
	7-009677		Japan	01-13-1995				X		X	
	11-266373		Japan	09-28-1999				X		X	
	11-138955		Japan	05-25-1999				X		X	
	11-147335		Japan	06-02-1999				X		X	
	11-105371		Japan	04-20-1999				X		X	

**NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

DATE OF DELIVERY OF THE NOTICE: February 21, 2006

NOTIFICATION OF REASONS OF REFUSAL

PATENT APPLICATION NUMBER: H11-337748  
DATE OF DRAFT OF THE NOTICE: February 14, 2006  
EXAMINER: MASAKI TATSUZAWA  
AGENTS: TAMOTSU AOYAMA and two others  
PATENT LAW: Section 29(2)

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The application is deemed to be rejected according to following reasons. The applicant may submit an opinion, if any, within sixty days from the date of delivery of this notice.

REASON

It is deemed that the inventions described in claims 1 to 3 could easily be made, prior to the filing of the patent application, by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of an invention or inventions described in a publication or publications mentioned below, distributed in Japan or elsewhere prior to the filing of the patent application. Therefore, the application is refused in accordance with the Patent Law, Section 29(2).

NOTES

Claims 1-3.

Documents 1-4.

As described in Documents 1 and 2, an image forming apparatus having a test print mode includes an image processor having a density converter for converting image data to density data and processes the image data, a test print controller for performing a test print, and a storage device shared by the image processor and the test print controller. In a test print, the

test print controller is connected to the storage device, while in a normal print, the image processor is connected to the storage device. In a test print, the data for the test print is stored in the storage device, while in a normal print, the data converted by the density converter is stored in the storage device for the image processing. This is a known art (hereinafter referred to as first known art).

On the other hand, as described in Documents 3 and 4, it is known to have a configurable device such as a field programmable gate array wherein a circuit structure for processing digital data such as print data can be configured. This is a known art (hereinafter referred to as second known art). It could easily be made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to adopt the technology of the second known art as a circuit structure for processing the data for a test print and the image data for a normal print, in the image processing apparatus of the first known art.

Prior art list:

1. S62-281561
2. H11-179939
3. H11-165434
4. H07-135447

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RECORD OF PRIOR ART SEARCH

Search Field        IPC    B41J 5/30

Prior Art Documents

H07-009677  
H11-266373  
H11-138955  
H11-147335  
H11-105371

This record is not a part of the reasons of rejection.

Any questions on of this notification may be asked to Masaki Tatsuzawa of the Patent Office, Examination Section 1, Print and Printer (tel. 03-3581-1101, extension 3259).

## 拒絶理由通知書



特許出願の番号	平成11年 特許願 第337748号
起案日	平成18年 2月14日
特許庁審査官	立澤 正樹 9809 2P00
特許出願人代理人	青山 葆 (外 2名) 様
適用条文	第29条第2項

この出願は、次の理由によって拒絶をすべきものである。これについて意見があれば、この通知書の発送の日から60日以内に意見書を提出して下さい。

## 理 由

この出願の下記の請求項に係る発明は、その出願前日本国内又は外国において頒布された下記 of 刊行物に記載された発明に基いて、その出願前にその発明の属する技術の分野における通常の知識を有する者が容易に発明をすることができたものであるから、特許法第29条第2項の規定により特許を受けることができない。

## 記 (引用文献等については引用文献等一覧参照)

- ・ 請求項 1乃至3
- ・ 引用文献等 1乃至4
- ・ 備考

引用文献1及び2等に記載されているように、テスト印字モードを有する画像形成装置において、画像データを濃度データに変換する濃度変換部を含み、該画像データの処理を行う画像処理部と、テスト印字を行うテスト印字制御部と、該画像処理部と該テスト印字制御部により共用されるメモリと、テスト印字中はテスト印字を制御する前記テスト印字制御部を前記メモリに接続し、通常のプリント中は前記画像処理部を前記メモリに接続するように切り替えを行い、テスト印字中は前記メモリにテスト印字用データを格納し、通常プリント中は前記メモリに画像処理による変換データを格納する画像処理装置の技術が周知技術としてある。(以下、周知技術1とする。)

一方、引用文献3及び4等に記載されているように、印刷データ等のデジタルデータの処理を行うための回路構成をFPGA等からなる書き換え可能なデバイスに対して必要な機能に応じて再構成可能に設ける技術が周知技術としてあり(以下、周知技術2とする。)、上記周知技術1に記載された画像処理装置にお

けるテスト印字用データの処理及び通常プリントにおける画像データの処理を行うための回路構成として、上記周知技術2に記載された技術を採用し、本願の請求項に係る発明の構成をなすことに格別の困難性は認められない。

引用文献等一覧

1. 特開昭62-281561号公報
  2. 特開平11-179939号公報
  3. 特開平11-165434号公報
  4. 特開平07-135447号公報
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先行技術文献調査結果の記録

- ・調査した分野     I P C     B 4 1 J 5 / 3 0  
                           D B 名
- ・先行技術文献     特開平07-009677号公報  
                           特開平11-266373号公報  
                           特開平11-138955号公報  
                           特開平11-147335号公報  
                           特開平11-105371号公報

この先行技術文献調査結果の記録は、拒絶理由を構成するものではない。

この拒絶理由に関するご不明な点がございましたら、下記までご連絡下さい。

特許審査第一部 印刷・プリンター 審査官 立澤 正樹(たつざわ まさき)  
TEL03(3581)1101 内線3259